IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A protection circuit for an apparatus comprising:

a single supply voltage bus for supplying a voltage;

a single ground bus for supplying a return for current from the supply bus;

a single protection line bus;

a plurality of fans ~~(Fi)~~units, ~~the protection circuit comprises a plurality of elements (Zi; Ii)~~each fan unit comprising a fan and an element, ~~each~~ said element ~~(Zi, Ii) being associated with a corresponding one of the plurality of fans (Fi) and~~ having a property with a value depending on an operation condition of the ~~corresponding one of said fans (Fi)~~fan, wherein the fan is arranged between the single supply voltage bus and the single ground bus, and the ~~elements (Zi; Ii) being~~element is arranged ~~in parallel~~ between ~~a reference line (GND) and a~~the single protection line ~~(PROT),~~bus and the single ground bus; and

a detection circuit ~~(2)~~ coupled ~~to~~ between the single protection line ~~(PROT)~~bus and the single ground bus for detecting ~~whether~~ a total value of the ~~parallel-arranged~~plurality of elements ~~(Zi)~~of the plurality of fan units arranged in parallel to the single protection line bus and the single ground bus, said

detection circuit comprising comparing means for determining whether said total value of the plurality of elements is in a range indicating that at least one of the fans ~~(Fi)~~ is in an abnormal operation condition.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The protection circuit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that each of the ~~element (Zi; Ii)~~plurality of elements comprises a current source ~~(Ii)~~ for supplying a current ~~whose the~~having a value ~~depends~~ dependent on the operation condition of the corresponding fan ~~(Fi)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The protection circuit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that each of the plurality of elements ~~element (Zi; Ii)~~ comprises an impedance element ~~(Zi) of whose the~~having a value ~~depends~~ dependent on the operation condition of the corresponding fan ~~(Fi)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The protection circuit as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that each of the impedance ~~element (Zi)~~elements comprises a series arrangement of a resistor ~~(Ri)~~ and a main current path of an electronic switch ~~(Si)~~, a control input of the electronic switch ~~(Si)~~ being coupled to the corresponding fan ~~(Fi)~~ for receiving a signal ~~(ISi)~~ indicating whether the fan ~~(Fi)~~ is operative or inoperative.

5. (Currently Amended) A cooling system, having a protection circuit, ~~comprising a plurality of fans (Fi) and a protection circuit~~ for an apparatus ~~comprising the plurality of fans (Fi)~~, the protection circuit ~~comprises~~comprising:

a single supply voltage bus for supplying a voltage;

a single ground bus for supplying a return for current from the supply bus;

a single protection line bus;

a plurality of ~~elements (Zi; Ii)~~fan units, each fan unit comprising a fan and an element, ~~each~~ said element ~~(Zi, Ii) being associated with a corresponding one of the plurality of fans (Fi) and~~ having a property with a value depending on an operation condition of the ~~corresponding one of said fans (Fi)~~fan, wherein the fan is arranged between the single supply voltage bus and the single ground bus, and the ~~elements (Zi; Ii) being~~element is arranged ~~in parallel~~ between ~~a reference line (GND) and a~~the single protection line ~~(PROT),~~bus and the single ground bus; and

a detection circuit ~~(2)~~ coupled ~~to~~ between the single protection line ~~(PROT)~~bus and the single ground bus for detecting ~~whether~~ a total value of the ~~parallel-arranged~~plurality of elements ~~(Zi)~~of the plurality of fan units arranged in parallel to the single protection line bus and the single ground bus, said detection circuit comprising comparing means for determining

whether said total value of the plurality of elements is in a range indicating that at least one of the fans ~~(Fi)~~ is in an abnormal operation condition to protect overheating of the apparatus.

6. (Currently Amended) A display apparatus comprising a display device~~, a plurality of fans~~ and a cooling system having a protection circuit for cooling the display apparatus~~, and a protection circuit~~, characterized in that the protection circuit comprises:

a single supply voltage bus for supplying a voltage;

a single ground bus for supplying a return for current from the supply bus;

a single protection line bus;

a plurality of ~~elements (Zi; Ii)~~fan units, each fan unit comprising a fan and an element, ~~each~~ said element ~~(Zi, Ii) being associated with a corresponding one of the plurality of fans (Fi) and~~ having a property with a value depending on an operation condition of the ~~corresponding one of said fans (Fi)~~fan, wherein the fan is arranged between the single supply voltage bus and the single ground bus, and the ~~elements (Zi; Ii) being~~element is arranged ~~in parallel~~ between ~~a reference line (GND) and a~~the single protection line ~~(PROT),~~bus and the single ground bus; and

a detection circuit ~~(2)~~ coupled ~~to~~ between the single protection line ~~(PROT)~~bus and the single ground bus for detecting

~~whether~~ a total value of the ~~parallel-arranged~~plurality of elements ~~(Zi)~~of the plurality of fan units arranged in parallel to the single protection line bus and the single ground bus, said detection circuit comprising comparing means for determining whether said total value of the plurality of elements is in a range indicating that at least one of the fans ~~(Fi)~~ is in an abnormal operation condition, to protect overheating of the display apparatus.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The display apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the detection circuit ~~(2)~~ comprises means for selectively limiting the power dissipation in the display apparatus in dependence on a number of fans ~~(Fi)~~ operating abnormally.